

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by W. Samuel Hamrick, Jr.
Chief Deputy, Northern District of Georgia

While the 71st Federal Court Clerks Association Conference in Miami Beach is a recent memory, I want to again thank our colleagues in the Southern District of Florida for hosting a successful and very memorable conference. Michele Tarallo and her committee did an excellent job enabling everyone who attended to learn about "Quality Service Through Technology."

Gerri Crockett, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, set up outstanding educational sessions. Emily Heubner and her colleagues from the Federal Judicial Center provided training on topics we can apply to our work everyday. Robert Lowney led an informative Washington update which brought us up-to-the-minute information from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. In business sessions, a new secretary was elected, the FY 2000 budget was approved, and new board members took office. The Miami Beach Conference enabled us to "think outside the box" and provided an opportunity for new ideas to be discussed and considered.

Our Planning Committee, chaired by Lance Wilson, will study and perhaps recommend potential opportunities for cooperation with other federal employee professional organizations. We have already scheduled a joint conference with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks in Cleveland, Ohio in 2001. There may be other instances when joining forces with our colleagues in the federal judiciary would be mutually beneficial. This is an exciting initiative which we will consider further in the not-too-distant future.

Elsewhere in this edition is the FCCA Calendar developed by Sheila Beauchane, our newly elected secretary. Sheila adapted the same information, in calendar form, for the FCCA web site. The FCCA Calendar will be your one-stop spot to find the dates of upcoming events and programs. It is also another way to publicize the many deadlines that are already filling our calendar.

The FY 2000 Membership Campaign will be October 1 through November 30, 1999. Our goal is 2000 members by 2000. Jeff Apperson, Chair of the Membership Committee, has gathered a group of proven and committed FCCA leaders to help us meet the goal of 2000 FCCA members. To reach this goal, we must increase our membership by more than 500. This goal is doable and necessary for FCCA to remain a viable promoter of excellence in federal judicial administration. It is a matter of simple math. More members make it possible to finance more programs which serve to benefit us all.

As our final meeting of this century, the Miami Beach conference also served as a foundation for the future. FCCA is in an era where ideas are encouraged, participation is welcomed, and possibilities are boundless. However, we cannot realize our potential unless our membership increases. Therefore, I urge you to take the important step of renewing your membership in FCCA. When your FCCA membership drive begins, be the first person in your office to join, and get a friend to join with you.